



PLEXA – Polk County Law Enforcement Executive Association

January 27, 2020

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications Systems Board
215 East 7th Street, Suite 450
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Ref: Letter of Support for Sub-Regional Tactical Talk Groups on ISICS

Dear ISICSB;

The safety of our first responders is The Polk County Law Enforcement Executives Association's (PLEXA) top priority and communication is an essential part of that goal. Radio communication and interoperability also allows first responders to provide the professional service our residents expect and deserve. The members of PLEXA have been working on how to improve communication between the three radios systems in the metro area (Polk County, Des Moines, and WestCom). Our members would like to suggest multiple Sub-Regional Tactical Talk Groups for the metro area. We urge the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICS) to approve and implement multiple Sub-Regional Tactical Talk Groups within Region 1 for Polk County, Des Moines, and WestCom radio systems.

We believe that allowing Sub-Regional Talk Groups would improve local interoperability between the three radio systems to ease the challenges first responders face every day. The high volume of 911 calls and population density in the metro area often brings both law enforcement and fire from the three radio systems together to assist one another during dangerous assignments. The talk groups will provide our agencies more efficient ways to coordinate operations at the scene of emergencies. These Sub-regional tactical talk groups will also prevent metro radio traffic from impacting our regional partners and will reduce the burden on the statewide and/or regional tactical talk groups.

The members of PLEXA would like to thank the ISICS board for their work in improving the interoperability between the many emergency communication systems in Iowa and for considering our proposal for multiple Sub-Regional Tactical Talk Groups in the metro area.

Respectfully,

Chair of Polk County Law Enforcement Executive Association.